

Editor's Shelf

editor's shelf by Larry Shea

The purpose of Editor's Shelf is to highlight the following: new editions of important previously published works; reissues of significant works that had been out of print; U.S. editions of works published elsewhere in English; additional volumes in a publisher's series that *MultiCultural Review* has reviewed; translations; previously published works that have been reissued in a new form, such as audiocassettes, audio CDs, floppy disks, CD-ROM, or DVD; and online reference sources. Paperback reprints are not included unless the reprint contains at least some new material. The initial releases in a publisher's series and works that have undergone major changes in the course of their republication in new edition or new media will receive full-fledged reviews in *MCR*. The Publisher Directory contains addresses and phone numbers of publishers whose works appear in Editor's Shelf.

NEW EDITIONS

Ata, Te. ***Baby Rattlesnake/Viborita de cascabel***. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2003. 32 pp. Adapted by Lynn Moroney. Illus. by Mira Reisberg. Spanish translation by Francisco X. Alarcón. ISBN 0-89239-188-X, \$7.95 (pb).

Ata was a widely known Chickasaw Indian storyteller, and this adaptation of her folktale was first published in 1989. In this edition, each two-page spread includes several sentences of the text in both English and in a Spanish translation by noted author Alarcón. The cut-paper-and-gouache illustrations keep to a traditional Southwestern desert theme, with small lizards skittering across the pages.

In this tale, a baby rattlesnake, who has not yet grown his rattle, pesters his family and cries so loudly that the Rattlesnake People decide to give him a rattle, even though he is not ready for one. After irresponsibly deciding to scare a passing Indian princess, he loses his tail and the story ends a little abruptly with the baby snake back in the comfort of his family, wiser but rattle-less.

Brooks, Sue, ed. ***Invisible Children in the Society and Its Schools***. Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2003. 272 pp. Second edition. ISBN 0-8058-4318-3, \$29.95 (pb).

Composed mostly of case studies of particular groups, schools, or children, this collection of essays from various scholars seeks to explore the lives of those young people who are neglected or ignored, either educationally or socially, in the United States and Canada. Examples include an Islamic school after September 11, Korean-American high school dropouts, homeless children, and those affected by AIDS. Nine of the 13 chapters in the edition are new since the book's 1998 publication, and several others have been

revised and updated.

Each chapter ends with resources for further exploration and references. As its editor notes in a preface, this volume is designed to "bring together a collective outcry against the callousness that runs through so much of the popular writing about education" and to shine attention on some social and educational situations that have received little attention, at least in comparison to such well-documented continuing problems as racism and sexism.

Eberhardt, Isabelle. ***The Nomad: The Diaries of Isabelle Eberhardt***. Northampton, Mass.: Interlink, 2003. 208 pp. Trans. from German by Nina de Voogd. Edited by Elizabeth Kershaw. Introduction by Annette Kobak. ISBN 1-56656-508-1, \$12.95 (pb).

Describing the life of Eberhardt (1877–1904) requires an adjective well beyond unusual. Born in Switzerland as the illegitimate daughter of an aristocratic Russian émigrée, she spent the last years of her short life in Northern Africa, where she married a young Algerian soldier, but she also spent some time in male clothing living the persona of a Muslim named Si Mahmoud Essadi. She joined a secretive Sufi sect, was nearly killed by a rival, and drowned at age 27 in Algeria in a sudden flash flood.

Besides her remarkable life, Eberhardt is known for her writing, much of it published posthumously: four volumes of stories, two novels (one unfinished), and diaries covering a period from 1900 to 1903. Most of these diaries are included in this volume; the translation was first published in 1987, and the introduction and editor's foreword are new to this edition. With its combination of philosophical musings, desert adventures, religious questing, drug use, and expression of an unconventional sexual identity, this volume is in an intriguing look into the life of a remarkable woman.

Greenfield, Eloise. ***Honey, I Love***. New York: HarperCollins/Amistad, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. ISBN 0-06-009123-1, \$15.99.

"Honey, I Love" was the title poem in a 1978 collection by Greenfield. It has now been illustrated by Gilchrist as the story of a young African-American girl telling "Honey" (who is not specified) of the things she really, really loves, such as the way her cousin from the South talks or the coolness of being sprayed with a hose on a hot summer day. At the end, the girl tells Honey that she doesn't love going to sleep, but that she does love herself. In this book, the exuberance of the poem's language, the colorful illustrations, and the spirited narrator combine to create a positive message for preschoolers.

Kolchin, Peter. *American Slavery 1619–1877*. New York: Hill & Wang, 2003. 346 pp. ISBN 0-8090-1630-3, \$14.00 (pb).

For this tenth anniversary edition of his well-regarded survey of slavery in the United States, Kolchin, a professor of history at the University of Delaware, has added a new preface and afterword and has expanded and updated a lengthy (more than 40 pages) bibliographical essay on more specialized studies and texts for readers interested in exploring this subject further. The seven main chapters—on slavery's origins in America, the Colonial era, the American Revolution, the organization and practice of slavery, slave life, the white South, and the end of slavery—remain unchanged. In these chapters, Kolchin tells the story of slavery with a scope that is broad in chronology and in the subjects it covers. His account is dispassionate and analytical, and he aims to provide an understanding of all aspects of slavery's particular expression in America and its effect on people white and black, North and South.

Besides the extremely inclusive bibliographical essay, the book contains an appendix of statistics on slavery, chapter notes, and an index. Kolchin's work remains a useful and thorough one-volume introduction to the history and practice of slavery in the United States.

Levi, Louise Landes. *Sweet on My Lips: The Love Poems of Mirabai*. Brooklyn, N.Y.: Cool Grove, 2003. 92 pp. ISBN 1-887276-33-5, \$12.95 (pb).

Levi is an American poet currently living in Italy who, during a three-year stay in India, learned to read and write the Middle Hindi language and translated the work of Mirabai, a mystic sixteenth-century female poet.

The translated poems, in the form known as *bhajans*, take up 24 pages of this new edition. The remaining pages include an introduction; two translator's notes; several of the poems in their original language; black-and-white illustrations; end notes on terms used in the poems; a bibliography and glossary; and appendixes that include a short essay on the meaning of the Goddess, the story of how Levi came to write these translations, and a description of the musical notation used for the poems. Various parts of these accompanying elements are given dates of composition ranging from 1977 to 1995. This edition gives as thorough a background for these poems and the tradition they arose from as one could ask for, presented by a writer who is clearly inspired poetically and spiritually by the work of this remarkable poet.

Tarpley, Natasha Anastasia. *I Love My Hair!* New York: Little, Brown, 2003. 22 pp. Illus. by E.B. Lewis. ISBN 0-316-52558-8, \$6.99 (board book).

In this new board book edition of a 1998 work, a young African-American girl named Keyana is initially upset by the way that tangles always hurt her when her mother is combing her thick hair. Keyana's mother tells her how lucky she is to have hair such as hers, and she draws comparisons

between the things that can be done with her hair to the spinning of yarn and planting of fields done by her ancestors.

Keyana quickly comes to be proud of her hair, its various styles, and the "tap, tap, clicky-clacky" of the beads at the ends of her braids. This charmingly illustrated book moves swiftly from Keyana's initial concerns to a strong statement about having pride in your own unique appearance and in your heritage.

REISSUES OF OUT-OF-PRINT WORKS

Ellis, Trey. *Platitudes*. Boston: Northeastern Univ. Press, 2003. 230 pp. New foreword by Bertram D. Ashe. ISBN 1-55553-586-0, \$14.95 (pb).

This 1988 first novel by Ellis (who has written several subsequent novels and as well as screenplays) has been reissued with his 1989 essay "The New Black Aesthetic." A foreword analyzes the novel, the essay, and the reception both received. This explication of the novel is particularly helpful for grasping its unusual structure. The novel begins with short chapters from a novel-in-progress (also called *Platitudes*) from a fictional black experimental novelist named Dewayne Wellington. This novel-within-the-novel starts off with the story of Earle, a middle-class black high school student, but Wellington, the author, soon breaks in to ask for help from his readers in improving the narrative. He receives a response from Isshe Ayam, a black feminist author, and much of the remainder of the novel consists of Wellington and Ayam's opposing takes on how the novel should continue. The literary fireworks include parodies of the PSAT and a school sexuality survey, an analysis of a restaurant menu, and four pages of photos of the novel's settings.

Fifteen years later, *Platitudes* is still a lively and unexpected portrayal of literary politics. Ellis's essay on the New Black Aesthetic discusses the variety of voices found in black artists then in their twenties or early thirties (such as Spike Lee and George C. Wolfe), many of whom have continued to have substantial careers.

Graham, Lorenz. *North Town*. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2003. 186 pp. ISBN 1-59078-162-7, \$16.95.

Graham, Lorenz. *Return to South Town*. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2003. 238 pp. ISBN 1-59078-164-3, \$16.95.

Graham, Lorenz. *South Town*. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2003. 188 pp. ISBN 1-59078-161-9, \$16.95.

Graham, Lorenz. *Whose Town?* Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2003. 202 pp. ISBN 1-59078-163-5, \$16.95.

This series of novels for readers age 12 and up was first published from 1958 to 1976, and they tell the story of a young African-American named David Williams. In the first novel in the series, *South Town*, David is 16 and living in a small town in the South. After encountering casual prejudice, David's family is caught up in a violent incident. At the

novel's end, they move North to the setting of the next two novels, *North Town* and *Whose Town?* In the final volume of the series, it is 15 years after the action of the first, and David is now a young doctor returning to South Town to try to establish a practice and confront his past.

Each volume of this series has an identical foreword by Rudine Sims Bishop on Graham's life and on this series, and an identical afterword by Graham's daughter, Ruth Graham Siegrist. In these realistic stories of David's life through the years, young readers will get a sense of the everyday struggles faced by blacks in the 1950s and 1960s.

Crapanzano, Vincent. ***The Fifth World of Forster Bennett: Portrait of a Navajo***. Lincoln, Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2003. 256 pp. ISBN 0-8032-6461-3, \$15.95 (pb).

This study of a Navajo man (Bennett is a pseudonym) was first published in 1972. The author is a professor of anthropology and comparative literature at City University of New York Graduate Center; his other books include *Tuhami: Portrait of a Moroccan*. The basis of this volume is the field notes Crapanzano took as a graduate student one summer in the 1960s of his experiences on the Navajo reservation at Little Bluff. Bennett was a World War II veteran in his 50s at the time, and Crapanzano gradually became acquainted with him and with the static and impoverished life on the reservation. In this honest and straightforward portrait, the various ways in which the Navajos deal with their situation and maintain their traditions are explained.

For this edition, Crapanzano has added a new foreword on the reaction to his book among the Navajos, in the scholarly community, and by himself 20 years later. A note at the end explains some aspects of Navajo ceremonial tradition.

de la Cruz, Sor Juana Inés. ***Sor Juana's Love Poems (Poemas de amor)***. Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 2003. 84 pp. Bilingual (Spanish-English) ed. Trans. from Spanish by Joan Larkin and Jaime Manrique. ISBN 0-299-18704-7, \$12.95 (pb).

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was a seventeenth-century Mexican nun and mystic whose poetry and polemical works, after long neglect, were rediscovered in the past century, largely by feminist scholars. In this volume first published in 1997, two contemporary poets work together to translate 16 of her love poems. The Spanish texts are set on facing pages with the translations, which are somewhat loose and do not attempt to retain the rhyme or meter of the originals.

Most of the poems express love for a woman, either in an idealized state of longing or in more physical terms. A few of the translations in the middle of the volume—with titles such as "Inez, I Have to Gloat: You're Gorgeous" and "Inez, When Someone Tells You You're a Bitch"—seem more contemporary than one would expect, and some employ a few words that it is hard to believe would be used by a nun during any century. The translators are clearly greatly inspired by Sor Juana's work and her personal example of standing up to those who tried to silence her, and in this volume they seek to demonstrate the passionate side of her achievement.

Rockwood, Joyce. ***To Spoil the Sun***. New York: Henry Holt, 2003. 192 pp. ISBN 0-8050-7372-8, \$16.95.

This young adult novel, originally published in 1976, is written from the perspective of Rain Dove, a Cherokee girl living in the Carolinas in the 1520s. Much of the action of the novel depicts the horrible effects that resulted from the introduction of smallpox into the Native American community by European settlers. Rain Dove eventually loses her husband, child, and other family members to the "invisible wind," as the disease is called.

Most of the book, however, is an attempt to recreate the ordinary way of life for a young Native American woman at that time. In one scene, Rain Dove's brother Two Crows barely escapes being killed in retribution for his involvement in an accidental death of a boy from another clan; Rain Dove later must adjust to becoming the co-wife of an older, powerful clan member named Mink. She also describes the strangeness of the European newcomers, called the "Immortals." An afterword gives readers some of the historical background of the early sixteenth century, from when, as the author notes, we have no personally written record of the lives of Cherokees such as Rain Dove. This novel provides one view of the period from a fresh and unusual perspective.

Schwieder, Dorothy; Hraba, Joseph; and Schwieder, Elmer. ***Buxton: A Black Utopia in the Heartland***. Iowa City: Univ. of Iowa Press, 2003. 270 pp. ISBN 0-87745-852-9, \$19.95 (pb).

Buxton, Iowa, was a town established by the Consolidation Coal Company around 1900 for the workers of its nearby mining operation. It served as a successor town to another town in Iowa that had been a coal-mining center of the late 1800s, and Buxton was abandoned in its turn in the 1920s when the company's operations shifted elsewhere. This study of the town and its large black community was first published in 1987 as *Buxton: Work and Racial Equality in a Coal Mining Community*, and it was largely based on interviews the authors had in the 1980s with some 75 living former residents of the town that had mostly vanished 60 years earlier.

Besides its black community, Buxton had substantial communities of Swedes and Slovaks, and the authors found that people of each group lived mostly separately, though they mingled at work, had generally equal pay and economic prospects, and experienced very little racial tension or prejudice. In the 2003 introduction to this edition, the authors state that their task in this book was largely to answer the question "Was Buxton really the utopia it appeared to be?" In general, their answer is yes, and the accounts (and black-and-white photos) here of ordinary small-town life, such as basketball leagues at the YMCA, show that a place appearing in many ways unremarkable was in fact remarkable simply for what it didn't have: the extreme economic and social divisions found in most places at that time and for decades to come.

Villaseñor, Victor. ***Walking Stars***. Houston, Tex.: Arte Público, 2003. 208 pp. ISBN 1-55885-394-4, \$10.95 (pb).

Originally published in 1994, these nine stories for young

adults, subtitled "Stories of Magic and Power," form a somewhat mythical family history for Villaseñor, the author of several other books for teenagers as well as screenplays. Villaseñor, whose parents were born in Mexico, grew up in a barrio in Carlsbad, California, and he notes in a preface that stories such as the ones here of everyday magic and perseverance enabled him to survive the circumstances of his childhood and achieve all that he has. In an author's note after each story, he tells the reader of the sources of the story and the lessons and strength to be drawn from it.

Some of the stories, such as "The Hanging" and "Death of an Assassin" are at times fairly brutal and violent. Young readers will find a colorful and arresting portrait of the author's family and community here, and they may be provoked to think about the place stories have in their own lives.

Yglesias, Jose. *Tristan and the Hispanics*. Houston, Tex.: Arte Público, 2003. 192 pp. ISBN 1-55885-362-6, \$12.95 (pb).

First published in 1989, this is the sixth novel by the Cuban-American writer Yglesias (1919–1995) to be reprinted by Arte Público Press. It is a sequel to another recently reprinted novel titled *Home Again*. That novel was narrated by Pinpin, an outspoken Cuban-American writer (with presumably some autobiographical resonance for Yglesias) who moves south to retire, after an absence of many years, among his relatives in Tampa, Florida. In this sequel, Pinpin has died, and his grandson Tristan, a Yale freshman, must go to Florida to settle his affairs.

The buttoned-up Tristan is in some ways the opposite of his irascible grandfather, although, as in the earlier novel, most of the story involves conflicts between the widely extended family of cousins and the main character from the north. This culture clash, as Tristan rediscovers the Cuban roots repressed by his own father, is the main interest of the novel. The plot, such as it is, is about the attempts by the Tampa relatives to convince Tristan to hold a wake and burial for Pinpin, against his parents' instructions to have a simple cremation, and about their attempts to receive as many "mementos" from Pinpin's estate as possible. In this novel, as in the previous one, Yglesias turns a satirical eye on all elements of the Cuban-American community, including both those who remain closely tied to family and cultural traditions and those who try to ignore them.

FIRST U.S. PUBLICATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOK

Ihimaera, Witi. *The Whale Rider*. San Diego, Calif.: Harcourt, 2003. 168 pp. ISBN 0-15-205016-7, \$8.00 (pb).

This novel for young people (age 10 and up) is the basis for the recent film *Whale Rider*. Ihimaera is a New Zealand Maori writer of numerous novels, short-story collections, and non-fiction works; this book was first published in New Zealand in 1987. It tells the story of an eight-year-old Maori girl named Kahu, mostly from the point of view of her uncle. In

the tradition of the tribe from the east coast of New Zealand that Kahu is born into, each generation will produce a male heir known as the "whale rider" who will have a special gift of communicating with the whales. Kahu spends most of her early years separated from her father's family, but at the age of eight, having returned, finds that the tribe needs someone to carry on the whale rider tradition. Her great-grandfather, a tribal chief, does not believe that a girl can play such an important role, but Kahu shows that she has the courage and talent to do so.

The novel is imbued with Maori traditions and occasionally uses words from that language. The connection of the people to nature, the sea, and their ancestors is a strong presence; some passages are told from the point of view of the whales Kahu will encounter. Young readers should enjoy this story of an unfamiliar land and culture with its courageous young heroine.

TRANSLATIONS

Miller, William. *Richard Wright y el carné de biblioteca*. New York: Lee & Low, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. by Gregory Christie. ISBN 1-58430-181-3, \$6.95 (pb).

First published in 1997 as *Richard Wright and the Library Card*, this Spanish translation tells a fictionalized version of an event from the early life of the author of *Native Son*. The story is adapted from an incident in his autobiographical *Black Boy*. The text, suitable for readers in grades three to five, describes how in Memphis in the 1920s the 17-year-old Wright borrowed a white co-worker's library card in order to take out books, which blacks were prohibited from doing. He meets with suspicion from a white librarian, but he is eventually able to obtain the books that inspire his later desire to become a writer. The story is accompanied by effectively moody acrylic paintings, and young readers will get a sense of the way that discrimination pervaded life in this period.

NEW VOLUMES IN SERIES

A to Z Guides

Huang, Guiyou, ed. *Asian American Short Story Writers: An A to Z Guide*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 392 pp. ISBN 0-313-32229-5, \$94.95.

Over the past several years, Greenwood Press has published four other reference works with biographical and bibliographical information on genres of Asian-American literature; the previous volumes considered novelists, autobiographers, poets, and playwrights. The present volume compiles 49 Asian-American writers with a significant body of work in short stories. Some of those included, such as Gish Jen and Bharati Mukherjee, are also known for their work in other genres such as the novel, and they are also profiled, though with a different focus, in other volumes in the series.

The writers here generally have first or second generation backgrounds from such countries as India, Japan, China,

Korea, and the Philippines. Only two of the writers were born before the twentieth century, with most coming into prominence from 1980 up to today (slightly more than half the writers were born in the 1940s or 1950s). The profiles, about four to eight pages each, were written by a total of about 30 different scholars, and each includes a biography, a description of major works and themes (including a number of fairly detailed descriptions of individual stories), an account of the author's critical reception, and a bibliography of works by the author and about him or her. An introduction by the editor analyzes six stories by three authors in order to give an idea of the variety and achievement of Asian Americans in this genre. For anyone studying Asian-American literature, or literature influenced by any of the countries included, this volume provides a well-organized and thorough resource.

Adventures in America

Hemphill, Kris. *Ambush in the Wilderness*. New York: Silver Moon Press, 2003. 90 pp. Illus. by Nicolas Debon. ISBN 1-893110-34-6, \$14.95.

Raffa, Edwina, and Rigsby, Annelle. *Race to Kitty Hawk*. New York: Silver Moon Press, 2003. 86 pp. Illus. by Wellington Ward. ISBN 1-893110-33-8, \$14.95.

In this series of novels for middle-grade students, fictional youngsters interact with historical figures. In *Race to Kitty Hawk*, recently orphaned 12-year-old Tess and her 13-year-old sister Ellen are adopted by a woman who owns a boarding house in Dayton, Ohio, and who happens to be friends with the Wright family. Tess discovers that one of the boarders is working to steal Wilbur and Orville's designs for heavier-than-air flight and that he is going to sabotage their flying machine. Deciding that no one will believe her story, Tess goes by train from Ohio to North Carolina and warns the brothers just in time, though not before being locked in a shed by the dastardly boarder. The portraits of the aviation pioneers and their work, and of the plucky Tess, are well drawn, but the cloak-and-dagger intrigue can be a little hard to believe. Most details here are historically accurate, but the book notes that there is no record of anyone spying on or trying to destroy the Kitty Hawk machine.

Ambush in the Wilderness follows a 15-year-old boy named Patrick Egan who, along with his uncle, becomes involved in the 1755 Battle of the Monongahela, an engagement in the French and Indian War in which the British side was led by the 23-year-old George Washington. This story is unusual in that it concerns a little-known war in which Washington is fighting for the British crown and his side is routed with most men killed or wounded. It also includes a scene where Patrick shoots and kills an Indian about to attack one of those on his side. Although there is some unlikely historical foreshadowing ("George Washington is destined to fight another day," Patrick's uncle remarks at the end), the novel does give a personal dimension to an unfamiliar chapter of American history. Both these novels contain several black-and-white illustrations and an afterword that separates fact from fiction.

African-American Biographies

Kramer, Barbara. *Mahalia Jackson: The Voice of Gospel and Civil Rights*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2003. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2115-7, \$20.95.

Schraff, Anne. *Marcus Garvey: Controversial Champion of Black Pride*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2003. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2168-8, \$20.95.

This series for middle school students now has more than 40 entries. Each begins with a significant event or period in the subject's life, followed by his or her life story. The books end with a chronology, chapter notes, suggestions for further reading and Internet research, and an index (the Jackson volume here also includes a discography).

The biography of Garvey (1887–1940) covers his varied and sometimes unsuccessful career. He grew up in Jamaica, where he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association, and he did not come to the United States until he was 27. After working to promote black pride and nationalism, and frequently coming into conflict with many of the more moderate black leaders of the time, he was eventually convicted of mail fraud and exiled from the United States, and he spent his last years in England.

The volume on Jackson is a more conventional story of a rising career in the face of prejudice and other obstacles, including two unhappy marriages. Kramer stresses her activism and her important role in bringing an energetic style of gospel to popularity. The book begins with the striking musical and historical moment where Jackson sang at the 1963 March on Washington just before Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Biographies in American Foreign Policy

DeRoche, Andrew J. *Andrew Young: Civil Rights Ambassador*. Wilmington, Del.: SR Books, 2003. 218 pp. ISBN 0-8420-2957-5, \$19.95.

This series is designed for undergraduate and graduate students in foreign relations, though the relatively short length of its entries and their straightforward and not overly academic prose may, as the series editor Joseph A. Fry writes in a preface, give the books appeal for general readers as well. The nine previous volumes include biographies that focus on the foreign affairs impact of figures such as Thomas Jefferson, Dean Rusk, John Foster Dulles, and Alexander Hamilton. Young is included here largely for his role from 1977 to 1979 as President Carter's ambassador to the United Nations. In other parts of his career, such as his earlier stint as a congressman and his later term as mayor of Atlanta, he is shown to have also had an internationalist perspective. The author's general thesis is that Young combined some of the international views of Woodrow Wilson with the concern for equality and self-determination of W. E. B. DuBois. Through the prism of Young's career, this book manages to touch on many of the issues concerning the relationship between the

struggle for human rights in the United States and similar conflicts around the world. A bibliographical essay is included to guide students to a number of books that explore in depth many of the topics touched on in the book.

The Collected Works of Langston Hughes

Hughes, Langston. *The Collected Works of Langston Hughes: Volume 11. Works for Children and Young Adults: Poetry, Fiction, and Other Writing*. Columbia: Univ. of Missouri Press, 2003. 414 pp. Edited with an introduction by Dianne Johnson. ISBN 0-8262-1498-3, \$44.95.

Part of a 17-volume collection of Hughes's works, this book of writings for young people has four sections. The first collects four short pieces—a set of game rules, a short play, and two descriptions of his life in Mexico—that Hughes contributed in 1921 to *The Brownie's Book*, a magazine for black children. The poetry section includes a 1932 collection, a series of alphabetical poems on animals published as a picture book in 1994, and some uncollected poems. Two long stories (about 60 pages each) written in collaboration with Arna Bontemps make up the fiction section, along with several pages of captions from an illustrated book titled *Black Misery*. The final section includes the five "First" books published from 1952 to 1960 as introductions to black culture, rhythms, jazz, the West Indies, and Africa. Some of the information is out of date, but Hughes's approach to his subjects, particularly to such unusual topics as rhythms of different types, gives the writings interest. As with the other volumes in this series, a chronology of Hughes's life by Arnold Rampersad is included.

The Columbia Guides to American History and Cultures

The Columbia Guides to American Indian History and Culture

Bragdon, Kathleen J. *The Columbia Guide to American Indians of the Northeast*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2002. 316 pp. ISBN 0-231-11452-4, \$45.00.

Fowler, Loretta. *The Columbia Guide to American Indians of the Great Plains*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2003. 294 pp. ISBN 0-231-11700-0, \$45.00.

Okihiro, Gary Y. *The Columbia Guide to Asian American History*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2002. 316 pp. ISBN 0-231-11510-5, \$45.00.

Perdue, Theda, and Green, Michael D. *The Columbia Guide to American Indians of the Southeast*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2001. 348 pp. ISBN 0-231-11570-9, \$45.00.

The three volumes on American Indians by Bragdon, Fowler, and Perdue are part of a seven-volume series that has appeared over the last several years; other volumes are

on American Indians of the Great Basin, California, and the Southwest. Each volume contains a four-to-five chapter summary of the history of the Indians of the region; an A-to-Z list of descriptions of notable people, places, and events; and a chronology. The guides each conclude with a substantial resources guide, including written and web sources, lists of museums and sites, and addresses of tribes and other organizations. The volumes in this series make for basic but fairly thorough reference works for students researching American Indian history by region.

Other volumes in the series on American history and culture include ones on the Cold War, American women in the nineteenth century, and America in the 1960s. The volume on Asian-American history, like the guides in the Indian series, has a narrative history, a chronology, and a historiography and resources guide. A central section of the book is a discussion of five historical debates, such as ones on Hawaii's population before Captain Cook and on the Japanese-American internment camps of World War II. Overall, this guide pays particular attention to the different ways one can construct and interpret history and how historical views have changed over time.

Countries in the News

Walsh, Kieran. *Afghanistan*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke, 2004. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-676-7, \$25.64.

Walsh, Kieran. *Iran*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke, 2004. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-677-5, \$25.64.

Walsh, Kieran. *Iraq*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke, 2004. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-678-3, \$25.64.

Walsh, Kieran. *Israel*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke, 2004. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-679-1, \$25.64.

Walsh, Kieran. *Pakistan*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke, 2004. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-680-5, \$25.64.

Walsh, Kieran. *Saudi Arabia*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke, 2004. 24 pp. ISBN 1-58952-681-3, \$25.64.

This series is designed to acquaint students in the early elementary grades with the landscape, people, history, and daily life of countries whose names may be familiar to them from recent world events. Each book contains large type (with bolded words found in a glossary in the back), mostly full-page color photos, a country map, and occasional sidebars. The chapters in each book are on topics such as geography, the people, school and sports, food and holidays, and the future. A page of "Fast Facts" gives information for each country, and it is followed in each book by a page on "The Muslim World," except for in the Israel volume, where it is a page on "Muslims in Israel."

One limitation of this series is that all of the countries here are from the same region of the world, although the Middle East is certainly the source of much of the news in recent

years. Also, these countries have apparently been chosen for their turbulent and sometimes violent histories, but such topics are difficult to express to an audience of second to fourth graders. The Israel volume, for example, touches several times on the Arab-Israeli conflict, but without mentioning the worst aspects of it. (The disputes over the West Bank and Gaza are said to have “caused a lot of difficulty in recent times.”) However, this series does give younger students a clear, easy-to-understand introduction to these much-discussed nations, even if further discussion may be needed with students as to exactly why they are so much in the news.

Culture and Customs of Africa

Culture and Customs of Latin America and the Caribbean

Sobania, Neal. *Culture and Customs of Kenya*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 256 pp. ISBN 0-313-31486-1, \$45.00.

Vincent, Jon S. *Culture and Customs of Brazil*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 216 pp. ISBN 0-313-30495-5, \$45.00.

Both of these series for high school students follow a similar format. The early chapters give information on the country’s geography, history, and politics. Later chapters discuss both daily life in the country (food, fashion, family, and social customs) and mass culture (art, architecture, literature, and media). In the Brazil volume, several of the chapters were written by various authors after Vincent died before completing the book. Each volume contains about 25 black-and-white photos, and each concludes with a glossary, bibliographic information, and an index. These books are clearly written and include a great deal of detailed information for students exploring a variety of cultural topics for these countries.

Culture in . . .

Guile, Melanie. *Culture in China*. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0468-7, \$25.70 (list); \$17.99 (library).

Guile, Melanie. *Culture in Indonesia*. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0469-5, \$25.70 (list); \$17.99 (library).

Guile, Melanie. *Culture in Japan*. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0470-9, \$25.70 (list); \$17.99 (library).

Guile, Melanie. *Culture in New Zealand*. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0471-7, \$25.70 (list); \$17.99 (library).

Guile, Melanie. *Culture in North and South Korea*. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0472-5,

\$25.70 (list); \$17.99 (library).

Guile, Melanie. *Culture in Papua New Guinea*. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0473-3, \$25.70 (list); \$17.99 (library).

Guile, Melanie. *Culture in Singapore*. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0474-1, \$25.70 (list); \$17.99 (library).

Guile, Melanie. *Culture in Thailand*. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0475-X, \$25.70 (list); \$17.99 (library).

The eight volumes in this series for middle-school students are all on countries in Asia. All have the same author, though the back cover of each lists a person who served as consultant for the information within. Most volumes are divided into chapters by cultural topics; the book on Papua New Guinea has chapters, for example, on performing arts, myths and traditions, costume, food, women and girls, and arts and crafts. The Indonesia title is instead organized by the different parts of the country, such as Bali and Sumatra. Each book includes numerous color photos, sidebars on various topics, and occasional boldface words explained in a glossary in the back. A list for further reading and an index are also provided.

The goal of this series is to explore the ways that people express their particular culture and use it to create an identity. Its accessible design and wide-ranging topics (the New Zealand volume includes discussions of modern dance, Maori carving, and *Footrot Flats*, the country’s leading comic strip, for instance) help to give students a good introduction to both traditional and contemporary culture for the selected countries.

Dear Canada

Matas, Carol. *Footsteps in the Snow: The Red River Diary of Isobel Scott*. New York: Scholastic, 2002. 190 pp. ISBN 0-439-98865-7, \$12.99.

Trottier, Maxine. *Alone in an Untamed Land: The Filles du Roi Diary of H el ene St. Onge*. New York: Scholastic, 2003. 222 pp. ISBN 0-439-98969-8, \$14.99.

In both of these historical novels in diary form, a teenage girl tells of her experiences in emigrating from Europe to Canada. H el ene St. Onge is a 14-year-old girl who leaves France in 1666 to journey to New France with her older sister after their parents die and their large estate is sold to pay debts. H el ene’s sister, Catherine, is one of the *filles du roi*, the young women who were given dowries by the King of France to marry a colonist in French Canada and participate in the community’s growth. After Catherine dies during the difficult crossing, H el ene stays with the other *filles du roi* and eventually marries at the age of 15. In the other novel, Isobel Scott travels with her widowed father and her two brothers in 1815 from Scotland to settle in Manitoba.

Both diaries include epilogues that extend the stories of the girls and their families as though they were real; it is only in the concluding authors' notes and on the copyright pages that the invention of these characters is revealed. Both books have several pages of drawings of actual persons and places from the period. *Alone in an Untamed Land* also contains a glossary of French words (all diary dates are also in French) and some Mohawk words, along with a 1658 recipe for "potage of herbs." The author's note for this novel reveals the ancestral connections the author had with actual *filles du roi* and other persons and places from the novel. Both these books (at least five others have been published in the series; all are about girls) provide historically detailed portraits of young women coping with frontier life.

First Person Fiction

Son, John. *Finding My Hat*. New York: Orchard/Scholastic, 2003. 192 pp. ISBN 0-439-43538-2, \$16.95.

The titles in this new series for young adult readers are fictionalized accounts of the experience of immigrating to and growing up in America; other books are from Haitian-American author Edwidge Danticat and Cuban-American writer Ana Veciana-Suárez. The narrator of this first novel is Jin-Han Park, a young Korean American who, like the author, grows up in Chicago, Memphis, and Houston, where his parents eventually find success as the owners of a wig store. Jin-Han tells his story in about 20 vignettes that leap forward in time from age two to high school. The stories focus on the ordinary events, frequently embarrassing ones, encountered by any young boy, with the later chapters concerned with Jin-Han's growing interest in girls. The particular difficulties faced by an immigrant family are part of his story.

The book ends with a note from the author describing the extent to which his protagonist's life shadows his own (for one thing, both their mothers die of stomach cancer, though in the fictional version this happens when the narrator is younger). Readers should appreciate and understand Jin-Han's perspective on the stages of his life, though in some ways this book may be enjoyed more by older readers—those old enough to remember all the cultural references to the 1970s and '80s that pass by, and those for whom embarrassments such as being dumped by your first girlfriend are distant enough in the past to be looked on fondly.

Hands-on History

Broida, Marian. *Projects About American Indians of the Southwest*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1602-1, \$18.95.

Broida, Marian. *Projects About Plantation Life*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1605-6, \$18.95.

Broida, Marian. *Projects About the Plains Indians*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1601-3, \$18.95.

Broida, Marian. *Projects About Westward Expansion*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1604-8, \$18.95.

Each book in this series for students in the middle grades (an additional volume has been published on colonial life) gives nine projects that students can create. Some projects involve cooking, such as preparing Hoppin' John or pemmican; others require needlework, such as making moccasins or a commonplace book; others create models of typical dwellings such as a tipi or a slave cabin; and several tell how to play children's games from the period. Some projects, such as a prairie sod house constructed of brownies and frosting, combine several of the above elements. Most projects here would not be too difficult for students in second to fourth grade with supervision; some, like the slave cabin with a material list of 20 items, are somewhat complicated. The first step of that project reads: "Ask an adult to help you make fake dirt."

The projects are introduced by scenarios where readers, addressed as "you," are invited to imagine themselves as youngsters in that period. This works out a little oddly in the plantation volume, because some projects require pretending to be slave children, while for others, such as a calling card, readers are meant to imagine themselves as the white child of plantation owners. Each book has numerous illustrations of life in the time and place described as well as of the project steps; each ends with a short glossary and a list of books and web sites for further research. The volumes in Hands-on History provide a number of good suggestions for ways that students can become more personally involved in the people and places they are studying.

In My Own Words

Malone, Margaret Gay, ed. *The Diary of Susie King Taylor, Civil War Nurse*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1648-X, \$18.95.

This volume is one of the second group in this series (eight books have been published in total) that abridge and adapt actual autobiographies from different periods in American history for students in the lower elementary grades. Susie King Taylor was born as a slave in Georgia in 1848. She married a sergeant in a black regiment in the Union Army in 1862, and she spent the rest of the war working with black soldiers as a nurse, laundress, cook, and teacher of reading and writing. Her husband died in 1866, and in 1874 she moved to Boston, found work as a housekeeper, and later remarried.

Taylor self-published her life story in 1902, and the author of this edition states that the selections from her text here have only been edited somewhat for clarity. The book also includes color drawings of scenes from her life, sidebars on topics such as the diet soldiers ate and schools for former slaves, and a glossary and a list of resources for further study. Taylor tells her story and that of the Civil War in a simple and affecting way. In the last sections of her autobiography, she tells of visiting the South decades after Emancipation and facing the continued prejudice and hatred of whites against

black people. From the vantage point of 1902, she decries this situation and asks how long it must persist.

In World History

Malaspina, Ann. *The Chinese Revolution and Mao Zedong in World History*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2004. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-1934-7, \$20.95.

Beginning with a brief scene in 1935 from the legendary Long March of Mao and his Chinese Communist followers, this book for middle school students goes back to describe the origins (both of Mao personally and in Chinese history) of the 1949 Chinese Revolution and then tracks its development to the present. This story is told in a fairly evenhanded way, though the tremendous failure of the Great Leap Forward of the late 1950s and the human destruction of the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s are presented in detail. The book includes a number of black-and-white photos and illustrations, as well as occasional "Source Documents" of original texts (mostly extracts from Mao's own writings). It ends with a time line, chapter notes, and a list of books and web sites.

Though the title of the series is "In World History," China's story is not told with much reference or context to other countries, except for an account of Nixon's opening of relations with China in the 1970s. This book does, however, give a thorough and clear account of Mao's role in the making of China today.

Journey to Freedom: The African American Library

Cannarella, Deborah. *James Baldwin: African-American Writer and Activist*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 40 pp. ISBN 1-56766-531-4, \$28.50 (list); \$19.95 (school and library).

De Capua, Sarah E. *The Tuskegee Airmen: African-American Pilots of World War II*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 40 pp. ISBN 1-56766-550-0, \$28.50 (list); \$19.95 (school and library).

Raatma, Lucia. *Alice Walker: African-American Author and Activist*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 40 pp. ISBN 1-56766-512-8, \$28.50 (list); \$19.95 (school and library).

Raatma, Lucia. *Jesse Owens: Track-and-Field Olympian*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 40 pp. ISBN 1-56766-532-2, \$28.50 (list); \$19.95 (school and library).

Santella, Andrew. *Martin Luther King Jr.: Civil Rights Leader and Nobel Prize Winner*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 40 pp. ISBN 1-56766-539-X, \$28.50 (list); \$19.95 (school and library).

Santella, Andrew. *The NAACP: An Organization Working to End Discrimination*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 40 pp. ISBN 1-56766-540-3, \$28.50 (list); \$19.95 (school and library).

With these six volumes, this impressive-looking series of biographies and nonfiction books for students in the middle

grades reaches 48 entries. As with the earlier titles, the clear, large-type text is accompanied by numerous color and black-and-white (often with a slight sepia tone) photos and illustrations that are designed to appear as pictures affixed to the pages. The general nonfiction entries in the series, such as those here on the Tuskegee Airmen and the NAACP, offer a solid introduction to their topics. The biographies here do a particularly good job of relating the early lives and some of the personal difficulties these figures faced to their great achievements. The biography of Alice Walker, for example, traces her world view as shown in her writings to such factors as her early years in Georgia with her sharecropper parents, a devastating childhood injury, her involvement with the civil rights movements of the 1960s, and her admiration for writers such as Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston.

Each work contains a time line, a glossary, an index, and a short list of works for further research. Taken together, these books give middle school students a number of well-told and well-illustrated accounts of the people, events, and topics of African-American history.

Kid Caramel, Private Investigator

Ferguson, Dwayne J. *Mess at Loch Ness*. East Orange, N.J.: Just Us Books, 2003. 72 pp. ISBN 0-940975-74-2, \$4.50 (pb).

In his third adventure for readers from about 8 to 11, Caramel Parks, a young African-American boy, becomes involved in solving the mystery of the disappearance of the grandfather of his friend Kayin, an exchange student from Scotland. Caramel, Kayin, their friend Earnie, and Caramel's father fly to Scotland to stay at the family castle near Loch Ness to search for the grandfather. Like most fictional detectives, Caramel has his trademarks, such as imagining that he can turn his mind into states such as "Bio-Scan Mode" when necessary, and frequent chewing of his favorite sugar-free banana bubble gum. Along the way, the story includes numerous pop cultural references for preteens and information about Scotland (the welcoming meal the Americans receive in Scotland includes haggis, for example).

The rather unlikely scheme that has caused Kayin's grandfather to disappear is uncovered without too much difficulty, in a way that will seem familiar to anyone who has ever viewed an episode of the Scooby-Doo cartoon series. However, the narration is as exuberant as its young detective hero, and young readers may enjoy becoming familiar with the characters of this series.

Latinos in American History

Bankston, John. *Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna*. Bear, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-58415-209-5, \$19.95.

Bankston, John. *Diego Rivera*. Bear, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-58415-208-7, \$19.95.

Bankston, John. *Juan Bautista de Anza*. Bear, Del.:

Mitchell Lane, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-58415-196-X, \$19.95.

Thatcher Murcia, Rebecca. *Americo Paredes*. Bear, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-58415-207-9, \$19.95.

Tracy, Kathleen. *Cesar Chavez*. Bear, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-58415-224-9, \$19.95.

Whiting, Jim. *Junipero Jose Serra*. Bear, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-58415-187-0, \$19.95.

This series for students in the middle grades now contains 20 biographies. It includes some figures whose lives have been frequently told in biographies for young people, such as Chavez and Rivera, and others who will be unfamiliar to most readers, such as Paredes, a writer and folklore scholar from Texas, and Anza, an eighteenth-century explorer and military leader who sought routes from Mexico to California.

Each volume begins with a dramatic episode from the life of its subject and then tells the full life story, accompanied by color photos, drawings, and maps. Much of the prose in these books is rather dramatic, with some punchy one-sentence paragraphs (from one volume: "Serra began settling into his new responsibilities, believing that he would spend several years in this harsh, sunbaked land....He was wrong."). The volumes conclude with a chronology of the subject, a time line of other world events from the same period, a list of books and web sites, and an index.

Milestone Books

Soto, Gary. *Cesar Chavez: A Hero for Everyone*. New York: Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, 2003. 96 pp. Illus. by Lori Lohstoeter. ISBN 0-689-85922-8, \$3.99 (pb).

This chapter book for students aged 7 to 10 gives a personal, empathetic account of Chavez's life. Soto gives details about Chavez's childhood (such as his family's loss of the farm begun by his grandfather) that make his later actions as a labor organizer more understandable. In detailing Chavez's later work, Soto concentrates on how it must have felt, for example, to walk 300 miles in the 1966 "pilgrimage" protest march from Delano, California, to Sacramento. Besides the personal portrait, the book also works to explain the opposition Chavez and his fellow unionists faced from the large fruit and vegetable growers and the suspicions they aroused within the FBI and state and local police authorities. The conflicted relationship between Mexican Americans and the *braceros*, those Mexican workers who came to work temporarily in the States, is also part of the story.

The book covers Chavez's life up until 1968 very well, before jumping in the last two or three pages to his death in 1993. This series is intended to let students know about the milestones that have shaped the world; the other two books so far in the series are on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

and on the journalist Nelly Bly. Though the first chapter of the book posits the 1965 founding of the organization later known as the National Farm Workers Association as such a pivotal moment, it seems that it is really the lifelong struggle of Chavez and those who worked with and emulate him that is of importance, more so than any one moment.

My America

Lasky, Kathryn. *Hope in My Heart: Sofia's Immigrant Diary. Book One.* New York: Scholastic, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 0-439-18875-X, \$12.95.

Lasky, Kathryn. *Hope At Last: Sofia's Immigrant Diary. Book Two.* New York: Scholastic, 2003. 112 pp. ISBN 0-439-44963-4, \$12.95.

For students in the early and middle elementary grades, these two historical novels take the form of the journal of Sofia Monari, a nine-year-old girl who begins writing her story while aboard ship in 1903 with her parents and her older sister and two younger brothers. Sofia's family is immigrating to America from a town in Northern Italy because her grandparents' entire farm has been left to her father's older brother. For most of Book One, Sofia is confined to a hospital ward on Ellis Island because of an eye condition that is suspected to be contagious (it isn't). Though she finds the conditions terrible and she speaks no English, she becomes the closest of friends with a young Irish girl also forced to stay in quarantine.

In Book Two, Sofia describes the life of her family in Boston's North End neighborhood, where her father works in a store, her sister struggles with learning English and succeeding in school, and Sofia suffers a bout of infantile paralysis. This volume is particularly interesting in its depiction of the differing social status and personal conflicts of the members of the neighborhood from a young girl's point of view. Everything works out well in the end, thanks to a kind teacher, an encouraging doctor, and the fabulous quality of the tortellini that Sofia's mother makes (at the book's end, the family opens a pasta shop and delicatessen).

The New Americans

Ogbaa, Kalu. *The Nigerian Americans.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 200 pp. ISBN 0-313-31964-2, \$45.00.

The back cover of this volume for students at the high school level and above points out that Nigerians are the largest African immigrant group in this country (and are the only group from Africa among the 13 covered in this series at present). The author, a Nigerian immigrant himself, begins with a description of the land, history, people, and culture of Nigeria. A second section discusses the causes and characteristics of Nigerian immigration, which began in the early twentieth century largely as a search for better educational opportunities and partly as a response to conditions in Nigeria; these continue to be factors today. The third and largest section of the book explores how Nigerians have adapted to American life, and a final section discusses the contributions Nigerian

Americans have made to the United States.

The book contains about 15 black-and-white photos, and it ends with an appendix of profiles of notable Nigerian Americans (such as the basketball player Hakeem Olajawon), a bibliography, and an index. Students will find this to be a very thorough survey of an infrequently studied ethnic group.

Notable Americans

Caravantes, Peggy. **Marcus Garvey: Black Nationalist.** Greensboro, N.C.: Morgan Reynolds, 2004. 128 pp. ISBN 1-931798-14-1, \$21.95.

This entry in a series for middle school students presents all the remarkable aspects of the life of the black nationalist leader who died in 1940 a relative failure, but whose espousal of black pride (including the phrase “black is beautiful”) and of independence for blacks in Africa influenced many who followed him. Perhaps the epitome of the sometimes bizarre stories presented here is one about Garvey’s death. An incorrect report of his death filed by a Chicago reporter while Garvey was living in England led to numerous obituaries around the world, with many pointing out his lack of success in creating a black homeland in Africa. Garvey’s secretary hid these negative accounts from him for several weeks (along with the follow-up “Garvey Not Dead” newspaper corrections), until he demanded to see the newspapers and letters he had missed. He read the critical accounts of his life, collapsed soon after, and died a few days later.

This biography depicts Garvey’s shifting fortunes, including his unusual marital and romantic entanglements, in a way that includes his strengths, faults, failures, and worldwide impact. The book is illustrated with numerous black-and-white photos, and it ends with a time line, source notes, a bibliography, and an index.

Our Cultural Heritage Our People

Burgan, Michael. **African Americans.** Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child’s World, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59296-012-X, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (school and library).

Cannarella, Deborah. **Cuban Americans.** Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child’s World, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59296-013-8, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (school and library).

Klingel, Cynthia. **Greek Americans.** Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child’s World, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59296-014-6, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (school and library).

Klingel, Cynthia. **Korean Americans.** Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child’s World, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59296-016-2, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (school and library).

Koenig, Angela T. **Pakistani Americans.** Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child’s World, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59296-017-0, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (school and library).

Williams, Jean Kinney. **Asian Indian Americans.** Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child’s World, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59296-015-4, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (school and library).

Kent, Deborah. **Phillis Wheatley: First Published African-American Poet.** Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child’s World, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59296-009-X, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (school and library).

Klingel, Cynthia. **Harriet Tubman: Abolitionist and Underground Railroad Conductor.** Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child’s World, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59296-004-9, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (school and library).

These two series published by The Child’s World for students from about third grade through middle school employ similar designs and formats. With the two volumes about Tubman and Wheatley, the Our People series now has about 30 short biographies of significant Americans. Each tells the subject’s story in a straightforward way, accompanied by color and black-and-white photos and illustrations and with occasional “Interesting Facts” as well as some longer sidebars. In the Tubman volume, for example, sidebars include ones on slavery and the plantation economy and on her preserved home in Auburn, New York. Each book ends with a time line, a short glossary of words that have been placed in boldface earlier, a list for further research, and an index.

In the Our Cultural Heritage series, the four chapters in each book cover the history of immigration from the particular country, how immigrants adjusted to life in America, life within that ethnic community today, and a listing of contributions the community has made to the United States. These include words and foods adopted by Americans (such as, from *Greek Americans*, democracy and gyros) and well-known and/or highly successful representatives of the group. The book on Pakistani Americans includes a sidebar as well on an ordinary Pakistani-American seventh grader and his family.

Oxfam Country Profiles

Parker, Ben, with Woldegiorgis, Abraham. **Ethiopia.** Oxford, England: Oxfam GB, 2003. 72 pp. Revised edition. ISBN 0-85598-484-8, \$9.95 (pb).

This study is one of 20 from the British-based humanitarian organization on developing countries around the world (spelling and punctuation are done in the British style). It was originally published in 1995 as *Ethiopia: Breaking New Ground*. This edition contains the original 1995 text with a new nine-page chapter on recent developments; a page of facts and figures and a list of works for further reading have also been updated.

In about 20 short chapters accompanied by black-and-white photos, the book covers a number of historical, cultural, political, and economic topics about the country, with a particular emphasis on how events affect the lives of ordinary Ethiopians. The conclusion to the 1995 section of

the book states, "The last few years of the twentieth century will see the re-birth of Ethiopia, or its return to civil war and despair." As is noted in the chapter of updates, continued poor economic development, a 1998 war with Eritrea, and an undiminished AIDS crisis mean that the people of Ethiopia still face tremendous challenges.

Point Counterpoint

Cohen, Carl and Sterba, James P. ***Affirmative Action and Racial Preference***. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2003. 394 pp. ISBN 0-19-514894-0, \$30.00.

Cohen is a professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan who played an important role in the recent Supreme Court cases, decided in June 2003, that struck down Michigan's undergraduate affirmative action plan while upholding the plan used by its law school. In this volume, he argues that race preference is both wrong morally, legally, and constitutionally and bad in the effects it has on minorities, universities, and society as a whole.

Sterba, a professor of philosophy from Notre Dame who advised the University of Michigan in these cases, writes in defense of what he refers to as affirmative action (Cohen writes that he does not oppose all affirmative action—and does not define it as Sterba does—but only opposes all racial preference). In competing prefaces, the two professors argue that each should have been allowed to put their case first in the book; Sterba states that he agreed to change the intended order and go second only to avoid a lawsuit. He invites the reader to read the arguments in whatever order seems appropriate. In any case, both professors offer detailed and thoughtful explications of their positions, though Cohen takes up about twice as many pages as Sterba, and at the end of the book each has a chance to react to the argument of the other and to respond briefly to the Supreme Court decisions. Readers of this volume will find much to think about regarding the philosophical and practical implications of considering race in educational admissions decisions.

Primary Sources of Famous People in American History

Grandes personajes en la historia de los Estados Unidos

Egan, Tracie. ***Francisca Alvarez: El Ángel de Goliad***. New York: Rosen, 2004. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8239-4133-7, \$21.25 (list); \$15.95 (school and library).

Egan, Tracie. ***Francisca Alvarez: The Angel of Goliad/El Ángel de Goliad***. New York: Rosen, 2004. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8239-4157-4, \$21.25 (list); \$15.95 (school and library).

Phillips, Larissa. ***Cochise: Apache Chief/Jefe Apache***. New York: Rosen, 2004. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8239-4153-1, \$21.25 (list);

\$15.95 (school and library).

Phillips, Larissa. ***Cochise: Jefe Apache***. New York: Rosen, 2004. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8239-4129-9, \$21.25 (list); \$15.95 (school and library).

Twenty-four biographies for students in the middle grades (other subjects include Paul Revere, Jesse James, and Sojourner Truth) are presented in both Spanish-language and bilingual editions in these two series for students in the early to middle elementary grades. In the bilingual edition, each spread has a page of text with an upper English paragraph and lower Spanish one faced by a full-page color photo or illustration with a caption in both languages. Some of these illustrations are actual documents or letters from the period, which is apparently the reason for the words "Primary Sources" in the title of the bilingual series.

For the Spanish-language series, the Spanish text moves to the top of the page, with the bottom half taken by a black-and-white photo or illustration or a Spanish-language sidebar, none of which are in the bilingual series. The captions in the Spanish series are also longer versions of those in the bilingual books. Both series contain a time line and a short glossary.

Alvarez, the subject of a biography in each series, was a Mexican woman who intervened with her husband, a captain in Santa Anna's army, to spare the lives of 20 captured Texans who avoided the fate of the more than 300 others who were killed in the Goliad Massacre of 1836. The biography notes that almost nothing is known of her life either before or after the period of her act of compassion for the Texas prisoners. The portrait of Cochise in the other two volumes above is of a proud and disciplined warrior who was compelled by the mistreatment of his people and himself to lead the fight against the U.S. government in the Apache Wars, before he finally agreed to surrender and move to a reservation in 1872.

Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage

Díaz Guerra, Alirio. ***Lucas Guevara***. Houston, Tex.: Arte Público, 2003. 336 pp. ISBN 1-55885-390-1, \$12.95 (pb).

Díaz Guerra, an editor, poet, and novelist, was born in Colombia in 1862 and moved to New York in 1895, where he published this novel in 1914. This edition was translated by Ethriam Cash Brammer, and it includes an introduction by Nicolás Kanellos and Imara Liz Hernández. The novel, discovered in the collection of the New York Public Library by Kanellos in 1976, is said here to be the earliest known Spanish-language novel of immigration to the United States.

Guevara is a relatively innocent young man from a small town in an unnamed South American country who immigrates to New York and quickly becomes corrupted by its immorality and treachery. The novel is written in an ornate

prose style; for example, as Guevara's ship is about to reach America, "Glee was painted with vivacious color on the countenances of those who in a few hours would, perhaps, find themselves in the arms of those who anxiously awaited them onshore; their bosoms would be wed and they would burst in an explosion of affection." Boardinghouse residents and seedy Bowery haunts are depicted satirically; in one chapter the workings of a typical brothel are described. Some passages also satirically portray members of certain groups and classes, such as a Jewish pawnbroker in Guevara's boardinghouse who eats like a "rabid rabbi." In its warnings of the perdition that the American Way of Life can lead to, especially in the big cities, the novel resembles in language and tone some other moralistic tales from the early twentieth century; its Hispanic origins make it of historical interest to students of Hispanic-American literature.

Roosevelt High School Series

Velásquez, Gloria L. *Teen Angel*. Houston, Tex.: Piñata Books, 2003. 208 pp. ISBN 1-55885-391-X, \$9.95 (pb).

This young adult novel is the sixth in a series about a multiracial group of characters in a California high school. Most of the story is narrated by Celia, a 15-year-old who is boy-crazy but rather naïve and who becomes pregnant after one sexual encounter with a no-good older cousin of a friend of hers. Unable to face her strict Mexican-American parents (particularly her father), Celia moves out of her home and drops out of school. Sandra Martínez, a counselor who is dealing with the miscarriage of her long-hoped-for pregnancy (she narrates several chapters herself), helps Celia to find a special high school program for teenagers who are pregnant or recent mothers and to reconcile with her family.

Some characters from previous books in the series make brief appearances here, and though the novel concentrates mostly on Celia and her friends, it also considers the points of views of older characters. Celia may seem a little less worldly in some ways than many sophomores of today (and teenage sex and pregnancy are presented here as more unusual than they may really be), but this novel should ring generally true to younger high school students as a story reflecting their own concerns and daily reality when dealing with such subjects.

Rough Guides

The Rough Guide to Bollywood Legends: Asha Bhosle. London: World Music Network, 2003. Audio CD, 78 min. \$16.98.

The Rough Guide to Brazilian Electronica. London: World Music Network, 2003. Audio CD, 69 min. \$16.98.

The Rough Guide to Salsa Colombia. London: World Music Network, 2003. Audio CD, 68 min. \$16.98.

The publishers of the Rough Guide series, based in Great

Britain, are well known for their travel guides, and they also publish volumes of musical reference by genre such as rock and jazz. These three CDs compile selections from various artists in subgenres not likely to be familiar to most North American listeners.

Asha Bosle is a female singer of *filmi*, or songs from films made in India's Bollywood; in the biography included in the CD booklet, it is said that Bosle is the most recorded singer in history, having done more than 20,000 songs in a dozen languages. The 16 selections included here were recorded from the 1950s to the 1990s. All of the songs on the CD of Brazilian electronica, on the other hand, are representatives from the last few years of this fusion of modern electronic dance music with elements of traditional Brazilian rhythms. The compilation of salsa music from Colombia aims to show the particular expression the genre has taken in this South American country. The general introductions, the track-by-track commentaries, and the freshness of the music make this series an unusual resource for anyone who is interested in a more in-depth look at the cultures presented, or perhaps is just looking for some different and lively tunes for dancing.

Scrapbooks of America

Dell, Pamela. *Blood in the Water: A Story of Friendship during the Mexican War*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-59187-042-9, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (library).

Dell, Pamela. *Half-Breed: A Story of the Klondike Gold Rush*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-59187-044-5, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (library).

Dell, Pamela. *Shaky Bones: A Story of the Harlem Renaissance*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-59187-040-2, \$27.07 (list); \$18.95 (library).

In this series for students in the middle grades (nine other titles have been published), a fictional young person tells his or her story from a particular historical period, accompanied by a scrapbook that is purported to be that of the narrator. In one volume, "Shaky Bones" is the nickname an African-American 12-year-old living in Harlem who is an aspiring poet. He tells of his encounters with actual cultural figures from the Harlem Renaissance and in particular his experience of a poetry contest that goes wrong. The narrator of *Half-Breed* is Ike FitzHugh, a 13-year-old boy with a white father and an Inuit mother living in Alaska in 1898. *Blood in the Water* is narrated by Bonita, a 12-year-old Mexican girl in 1846.

The stories told by these young narrators are generally engaging (though Bonita's style of writing does not always ring true for her character's age and time period). The unique scrapbook designs of the books are lively and include many color and black-and-white photos and illustrations. One problem with the concept of the series is that it is not really believable that the narrators of these photos would have compiled all these historical images; this is particularly true for *Blood in the Water*, which has some modern photos of

places that are related to its story from the 1840s. For this reason, some of the captions supposedly written by the scrapbooks' owners seem artificial. However, young readers will be impressed by these confident young narrators and will learn much about the periods in which they lived.

Student Almanacs

Student Almanac of African American History. Volume 1: From Slavery to Freedom 1492–1876. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 144 pp. ISBN 0-313-32597-9, \$40.00.

Student Almanac of African American History. Volume 2: From Reconstruction to Today 1877–present. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 144 pp. ISBN 0-313-32598-7, \$40.00.

Available as a 2-volume set, ISBN 0-313-32596-0, \$72.00 (libraries).

Student Almanac of Native American History. Volume 1: From Prehistoric Times to the Trail of Tears 35,000 BCE–1838. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 144 pp. ISBN 0-313-32600-2, \$40.00.

Student Almanac of Native American History. Volume 2: From the Trail of Tears to Today 1839–Today. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2003. 144 pp. ISBN 0-313-32601-0, \$40.00.

Available as a 2-volume set, ISBN 0-313-32599-5, \$72.00 (libraries).

These volumes for students in middle school and up have an unusual structure. Each volume divides its historical period further into three chronological chapters. Chapter One in the second volume on Native American history, for example, is titled “Fight No More Forever: The Indian Wars for the West, 1839–1890.” Each chapter begins with a narrative of the period’s events, followed by an A to Z listing of encyclopedia-style entries on significant events, people, places, and groups during that period. Throughout the text in these books, terms that have their own A to Z entries are placed in a different-color bold type, followed by a page reference to the entry. Each volume also contains a glossary of shorter definitions; when these terms appear in the regular text, they are put in bold italics. This method of organization means that each section has much information on its period, though having six different A to Z sections across two volumes leads to many cross references. A student looking for some particular terms (“Apache,” say) might have to take time to find what chapter its main entry is in.

The almanacs contain a number of time lines and charts, and many black-and-white historical photos and illustrations. Many of the sidebars here are excerpts of original source material such as documents, laws, and personal accounts. Each volume ends with a select bibliography, a list of further

resources, and an index for the two volumes in the set.

A Traveler’s Literary Companion

Venuti, Lawrence, ed. ***Italy: A Traveler’s Literary Companion.*** Berkeley, Calif.: Whereabouts Press, 2003. 256 pp. ISBN 1-883513-14-6, \$14.95 (pb).

This is the eleventh volume in this series of anthologies of contemporary literary works that seek to give an inside view of life and culture in various cities and countries; other volumes include ones on Spain, Vietnam, Chile, Amsterdam, and Prague. For this collection, Venuti has selected, and translated, works of fiction from twentieth-century Italian authors. Some are of international renown, such as Luigi Pirandello and Alberto Moravia; others have only a few works that have appeared in English; and some are completely unknown in this country.

The book is divided into three parts: the North, the Center, and the South of Italy, with seven to nine stories from each. A driving force for selection, according to Venuti, was that works needed to have connection to a particular place. He remarks that modern Italian writers often do not consistently specify location, which means that only a particular aspect of the literary landscape is presented. (The fabulist Italo Calvino, for one, is not represented here.) The individual stories begin with short biographies of the authors and provide a wide range of place, style, and subjects. This literary companion would be a good choice for readers seeking to learn more about Italian literature of the past century as well as about life, especially the particular perspectives on life, found in its varied regions.

Twentieth Century Perspectives

Burgan, Michael. ***The Korean War.*** Chicago: Heinemann, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4034-1144-1, \$27.07 (list); \$18.85 (library).

Hossell, Karen Price. ***The Persian Gulf War.*** Chicago: Heinemann, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4034-1143-3, \$27.07 (list); \$18.85 (library).

Schaefer, Adam R. ***The Harlem Renaissance.*** Chicago: Heinemann, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4034-0150-0, \$27.07 (list); \$18.85 (library).

The series for middle school students explores events and periods from the history of the last century. Ten other volumes besides the above have been published; six of these treat various aspects of World War I and World War II. In the volumes reviewed here, each book has about 20 chapters of two pages each that present different events or aspects of the topic. For example, the volume on the Harlem Renaissance has chapters on the struggle for racial justice, the Harlem poets, and musical theater in Harlem. The Persian Gulf War entry gives a thorough recitation of the events of the 1990–91 conflict; the volume ends its story of the war’s aftermath in late 2002, before the second Gulf war began.

The books include numerous photos, and each ends with a time line, a glossary, a short list for further reading, and an index. One feature of the series is the use of boxes of text with primary source materials. In the volume on the Harlem Renaissance, these are mostly poems and excerpts from essays; in the other two volumes, they are mainly passages from letters or diaries of participants in the conflicts.

World Art & Culture

Bingham, Jane. ***African Art & Culture***. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 56 pp. ISBN 0-7398-6606-0, \$29.99 (list); \$20.99 (library).

Bingham, Jane. ***Indian Art & Culture***. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 56 pp. ISBN 0-7398-6607-9, \$29.99 (list); \$20.99 (library).

Khanduri, Kamini. ***Japanese Art & Culture***. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 56 pp. ISBN 0-7398-6609-5, \$29.99 (list); \$20.99 (library).

Lewis, Elizabeth. ***Mexican Art & Culture***. Austin, Tex.: Raintree, 2003. 56 pp. ISBN 0-7398-6610-9, \$29.99 (list); \$20.99 (library).

These large-format, well-illustrated volumes for middle school students use objects and artifacts as sources for understanding cultures. Each volume has 12 or 13 chapters on various art forms; those in *African Art & Culture*, for example, include ones on architecture, pottery, body art and adornment, textiles, masks, and musical instruments. The art forms presented in these books are almost exclusively traditional ones, with only a few short sections relating to modern developments and cultural figures, such as the Indian film industry known as Bollywood.

The chapters contain extensive two-column text, occasional sidebars, and large color photographs, some with detailed captions. Some words in the text are in bold type and are in a glossary in the back. The combination of all these elements may appear to some students, especially younger ones, to be a surfeit of information. However, the color images are often very arresting (such as one in the Indian volume of a 46-foot-long statue from Sri Lanka of Buddha reclining with his head on a round pillow). And the thoughtful treatment here of many subjects for each culture means that older students (including adults) may find much of interest.

NEW EDITIONS IN OTHER MEDIA

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. ***The Conch Bearer***. New York: Random House Listening Library, 2003. 4 audiocassettes; 6 hours, 31 minutes. ISBN 0-8072-1959-2, \$26.00.

The hero of this novel for students in the middle grades is Anand, a 12-year-old boy living with his mother and sister in a shack in the slums of Kolkata, India. After Anand's father abandons his family, the boy is forced to quit school and

work for a mean shopkeeper. Anand's kindness to a mysterious old man leads him on a dangerous journey to return a magical conch shell to its proper place. The novel is empathetically read here by the Scottish actor Alan Cumming (who may be known to the novel's audience from the film *X-Men 2*). Fans of other popular works with magical elements will find some things to enjoy here, and the fantasy is well combined with the realistic settings of modern India. [The print version of *The Conch Bearer* is reviewed in this issue. See review 13-1-0103.]

Giff, Patricia Reilly. ***Maggie's Door***. New York: Random House Listening Library, 2003. 2 audiocassettes; 3 hours, 30 minutes. ISBN 0-8072-1797-2, \$18.00.

Giff's 2000 novel for students in the middle grades, *Nory Ryan's Song*, began the story of a young girl named Nory and her family's struggles during the Irish potato famine of the mid-1800s. In this sequel, well narrated here by the noted Irish actress Fionnula Flanagan, Nory leaves her home and must make her way to the port city of Galway, and from there by ship to New York, where she will seek out her sister Maggie's apartment in Brooklyn. The story is told from the alternating perspectives of Nory and her friend Sean Mallon, who has left for America not long ahead of her and is also striving to reach Maggie's Brooklyn door. Along the way, both characters suffer some setbacks and hardships, particularly during the harsh ocean passage. The determination shown by these two young people will give listeners a sense of the difficulties and triumphs that have often been part of coming to America.

Momaday, M. Scott. ***Circle of Wonder: A Native American Christmas Story***. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2003. 1 audiocassette; 16 minutes. ISBN 0-8263-2797-4, \$5.95.

In a spoken introduction, Momaday says that he was inspired to write this story by the sense of wonder and peace he felt as a boy at Christmas Eve celebrations in a church in New Mexico. In the story that follows, a young, sometimes lonely boy named Tolo is remembering his late grandfather, with whom he loved to spend time. His family goes to a Christmas Eve service where, in keeping with a local tradition, his parents have been chosen to be the patrons of the Christ Child. During the service, Tolo believes that he sees his late grandfather, who leads him to a fire on a meadow that creates a circle of light. An elk, then a wolf, and then an eagle appear, each of whom bears the scars of a fight with one of the others (the eagle has the mark of a trap set by humans). The kinship felt between the boy and all the creatures of the world is revealed to be the true gift of the light from this special fire. The story on this cassette is fairly short, about 16 minutes including the introduction, and it is repeated on both sides, but it is very well told by Momaday and punctuated by occasional dramatic drum beats. This tale creates some interesting connections among Native American, Southwestern, and European Christian traditions.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Milkweed*. New York: Random House Listening Library, 2003. 3 audiocassettes; 5 hours, 15 minutes. ISBN 0-8072-1858-8, \$25.00.

Spinelli won the Newbery Medal in 1991 with his young adult novel *Maniac McGee*. His latest novel is narrated by a young and naïve orphan boy struggling to survive in Nazi-occupied Warsaw during World War II. The boy is first called a variety of names, including "Stopthief," which is what is often called after him as he flees with stolen bread. A boy named Uri becomes Stopthief's protector, and he tells him to call himself Misha and tell everyone he is a Gypsy in order to escape the fates of those who are Jews (Misha is not even sure of his own true background). The members of the band of orphans that Misha falls in with have an understandably tough view of their situation that contrasts with the younger boy's wide-eyed perspective of the world around him. The book does not shy away from portraying the atrocities that inevitably follow, though it has a generally hopeful message. The audio version is narrated by Ron Rifkin, known recently for his role in TV's *Alias*, who well portrays the cacophony of voices and blur of sights Misha encounters, while preserving his relatively innocent view. Students in the middle grades could learn much from this novel, which gives a sense of the strangeness and brutality of the period along with the small everyday events and feelings that still remain.

Yee, Lisa. *Millicent Min, Girl Genius*. New York: Random House Listening Library, 2003. 4 audiocassettes; 5 hours, 27 minutes. ISBN 0-8072-1930-4, \$26.00.

This first novel written for preteens and younger teenagers is narrated by its title character, an 11-year-old prodigy who has just finished her junior year in high school. The audio version is read by Keiko Agena of the TV series *Gilmore Girls*, and she does a good job of conveying how Millicent's great academic intelligence is coupled with a very basic lack of understanding where actual people are concerned. As the novel begins, Millicent has essentially no friends (she imagines an elaborate Latin quote to sign the yearbooks of her classmates with, but virtually no one asks her to sign theirs or offers to sign hers). In the course of the novel, she spends her summer working to create a more normal kid's life (with a push from her mother). This includes trying to hold onto her first real friendship with a girl named Emily by hiding her genius status, and learning how to play volleyball. Students around Millicent's chronological, if not intellectual, age should appreciate the difficulties she faces in fitting into the worlds of her middle school and high school peers. [The print version of *Millicent Min, Girl Genius* is reviewed in this issue. See review 13-1-0116.]

